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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/568,023

03/24/2006

Antoine Felix-Henry

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2352 7590 08/21/2009  
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EXAMINER

HOOK, JAMES F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3754

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/21/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/568,023	<b>Applicant(s)</b> FELIX-HENRY, ANTOINE	
	<b>Examiner</b> James F. Hook	<b>Art Unit</b> 3754	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |                                                                                        |                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/10/06</u> .                                                 | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Priority*

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cochran.

The reference to Cochran discloses the recited method of draining and venting permeate gases from a flexible tubular pipe comprising at least one internal pressure sheath 10 for transporting hydrocarbon type materials that are liable to diffuse through the wall of the internal sheath, an external sheath 12 around the internal sheath, at least one or more reinforcing plies 16,26 and specifically ribbed area 20 which forms flow paths for gases which can flow toward a vent 36d which is all article structure in a method claim holds limited weight, nitrogen gas is injected into the annular region to flow along the flow paths toward the vent, operating the vent for venting the gases out of the annular region toward a location outside of the flexible tubular pipe, where the method does not require venting to any specific location other than toward the outside of the flexible pipe, as seen in figure 3, the entrainment gas is injected into a plurality of

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longitudinally disposed pipe sections to deliver gas to the next pipe section via tubes 72, 82, where the gas is injected into one end of the flexible pipe near 64a.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cochran in view of Taylor. The reference to Cochran discloses all of the recited structure including pumping in the gases and with the exception of providing suction for sucking the gases out of the annular region. The reference to Taylor discloses that it is old and well known in the art to vent gases where a pump 56 to pump out gases or a suction device 56 can be used to remove the gases from the annulus between layers, and that a valve 55 can also be provided to control venting of gases. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a source of suction to suck the gases from the annulus in Cochran as suggested by Taylor where such would protect against possible fire by removing gases from the annulus which could catch fire.

Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cochran in view of Kari. The reference to Cochran discloses all of the recite structure with the exception of using tubes through the annulus to transmit gases. The reference to Kari discloses that it is old and well known in the art to modify the annulus between

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tubes to be either formed by a plurality of ribs such as figure 2, or to form such as a plurality of tubes such as seen in figure 6 for transmitting gases through the annulus or annular pipes. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the structure of Cochran by substituting tubes for the ribbed structure to create the annulus between the pipes to transmit gases as suggested by Kari where such is a known equivalent structure used and would insure the proper spacing throughout the length of the pipe.

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cochran in view of Kari as applied to claims 6-8 above, and further in view of Taylor. The reference to Cochran as modified discloses all of the recited structure with the exception of providing suction to the annular space and using a valve to control the gases exiting the annular space. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the article in Cochran as modified by providing a source of suction to suck the gases from the annulus in Cochran and to provide a valve to control exit of gases from the annulus as suggested by Taylor where such would protect against possible fire by removing gases from the annulus which could catch fire.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The references to Cooper, Dhellemmes, Adorjan, Skinner,

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Reece, Leonard, Antal, Kalman, Glejbol, and Fraser disclosing state of the art tube systems.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James F. Hook whose telephone number is (571) 272-4903. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Shaver can be reached on (571) 272-4720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/James F. Hook/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3754

JFH